

Agenda Date: October 15, 2009
Item Number: C1

Docket: A091590

Company Name: Utilities and Transportation - General

Staff: Rebecca Beaton, Infrastructure Manager
Mike Parvinen, Assistant Director-Energy

Recommendation

No action: informational industry presentation only.

Background

The Howard Hanson Dam in the Green River Valley is failing. The Corp of Engineers is addressing the issues of structural integrity of the dam and potential for flooding. The levees along the Green River may not be able to handle the volume of water that could be released by a heavy winter storm. This could create flooding in the Auburn, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila areas of the Green River Valley.

Regulated companies with operations or facilities in the Green River Valley will make presentations on October 15, 2009, and October 29, 2009, to the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission). The information will include potential exposure to flooding, and preparations to mitigate the impact on services following a flood incident.

Information on communication activity with the Emergency Management Division and county and or city personnel should be included in the presentation.

The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan states that the commission is a support agency for information and coordination purposes. When an emergency occurs within the state, the commission provides informational assistance to regulated industries, other state agencies, the State Emergency Operations Center and to the general public.

The commission maintains contact with regulated intrastate telecommunications, gas, and electric companies in the event of an emergency. The commission has statutory responsibility for service reliability, service quality, and consumer protection. The commission is further responsible for issuing permits granting authority to operate in this state and has regulatory authority over such services as household goods, bus, and solid waste. The commission will hear presentations by Puget Sound Energy, Williams Pipeline, and Olympic pipeline on emergency response planning.